APPROVED FOR RELEASE – DISAPPEARANCE OF AMELIA EARHART 2025
REVIEW

Fred Goerner
Books
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Edna
Pers Amelia Earhart

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31 August 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Mr. Arthur Sylvester's Interest in Fred Goerner's Book "The Search for Amelia Earhart"

1. This memorandum contains a recommendation in paragraph 5.

2. Central Cover Officer [redacted] on 30 August received queries from FE Division [redacted] and Lieutenant Tom Barr, ONI, concerning passages in Goerner's book linking CIA with Navy installations on Saipan. Jim Ludlum, CI Staffer, earlier received from ONI question said to have come from Assistant Secretary for Public Information, Arthur Sylvester. According to ONI, Sylvester wanted answers to satisfy a request from Al Skea of "The Newark New Jersey News."

3. The questions listed by Shaffer as "awaiting answers"

a. Whether or not the US Navy Technical Training Unit was a CIA activity?

b. Is the information on the US Navy Technical Training Unit, as presented in the book, classified?

c. Is the use of the information on the US Navy Technical Training Unit a breach of security?

d. Was the material in the book on the US Navy Technical Training Unit cleared through DOD? (This from Mr. Ludlum)

e. Was the material in the book on the US Navy Technical Training Unit cleared with the CIA? (This from Lt. Barr)

4. Goerner's book, newspaper articles he wrote in 1962 and at least one radio broadcast (CBS "World Tonight") from San Francisco 10 December 1962 refer repeatedly to CIA and its alleged operation of a secret base on Saipan, and accuse U.S. Government of suppressing information on the base and "evidence" that Miss Earhart may have been killed by Japanese on Saipan. Goerner claims to have had clearance for the broadcast from Director McCone through Mr. [redacted] in San Francisco.

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5. RECOMMENDATION. In this office's view the only two questions of direct concern to us are a. and e. Our recommended answers (if called for)-

To (a): The attached State/CIA "position paper" prepared in June-July 1966.

To (e): No clearance for the book was requested or given.

6. Attached reproductions of some pages from Goerner's book may be of interest.

SIGNED

Joseph C. Goodwin

Attach.